

and deposited in the Waste Reduction Recycling Incentive Fund. Millions of disposable diapers are used in Nebraska. In fact, they are used all across the nation. They are a problem in our landfills, just as tires that we talked about the other day, papers, the cans, the bottles, and I could go on and on. And I did pass some informational sheets out to you. On the one it says, The Hidden Cost To The Public On Disposable Diapers. Eighteen billion, 18 billion disposable diapers are discarded each year and these diapers represent 4 million tons of solid waste requiring disposal and this costs the taxpayers \$300 million in disposable charges. So I just figured that if they're causing so much of a problem, well, then perhaps we should collect a little fee from them to help offset this cost. In the other handout, it's entitled, The Argument For Disposable Diapers Is A Lot Of Garbage. There are enough disposable diapers thrown in trash bags each year to produce a new barge load of garbage every six hours. So you can see the problem that we have. Also, in one University of Oregon study, 16.2 percent by weight of the contents of one garbage truck was soiled disposable diapers. Plastic diapers weigh anywhere from four to eight ounces, depending on the size and the material used. In saturated form, they weigh approximately two to three pounds. And an average child uses about 60 diapers per week. Therefore, the child will produce about one ton of waste per year, each child one ton of waste per year. And it is estimated that nearly all of the diapers enter into the solid waste stream. Also, it is estimated that about 5 million tons of disposable diapers are buried in landfills in the United States every year at a cost of about \$100 million. And I could go on and on. But I just feel that we need to raise more money. We went ahead and put the dollar a tire on and I agree that tires are a problem in our landfills too, probably not as much in the rural areas as they are in the urban areas, because in the rural areas we use tires for many other things. If the NRDs build a new lake or reservoir, they cable a bunch of car tires together so that the fish will have a place to go from time to time. But as we did a little figuring here in Nebraska, the Department of Health reports that in 1988 there was nearly 24 live resident births in the state, and estimating that 18,000 of the infants use nondegradable disposable diapers, less than 80 percent of the total births, that one child uses approximately 12 diapers in one day. And, of course, that depending on... then depending on the child and the age of toilet training, the total revenue generated in one year would be approximately \$670,000. And the information that I have gotten from the Fiscal Office cites that